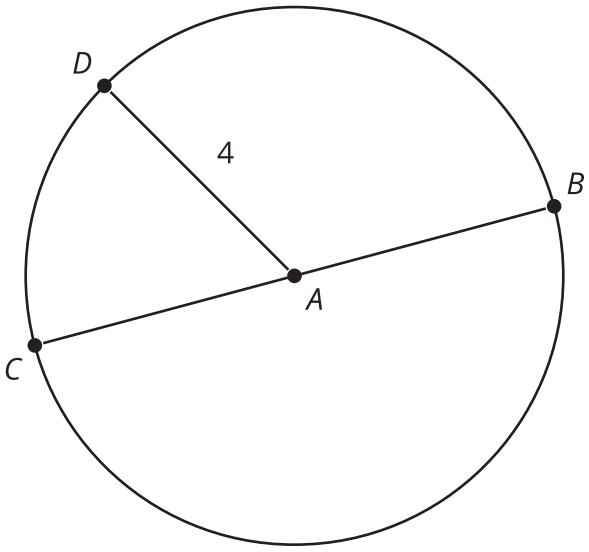
Unit 6, Lesson 11

The Volume of a Cylinder

Let's explore cylinders and their volumes.

11.1 A Circle's Dimensions

Here is a circle. Points A, B, C, and D and segments AD and BC are drawn.



1. What is the area of the circle, in square units? Select **all** that apply.
   a. 4π
   b. $\pi 8$
   c. 16π
   d. $\pi 4^2$
   e. approximately 25
   f. approximately 50

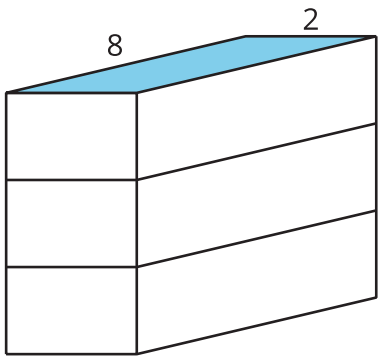
2. If the area of a circle is 49π square units, what is its radius? Explain your reasoning.

11.2 Circular Volumes

What is the volume, in cubic units, of each figure? Even if you aren't sure, make a reasonable guess.

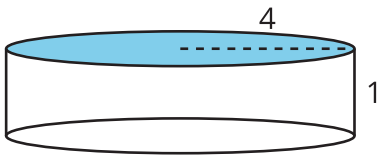
1. Figure A: a rectangular prism whose base has an area of 16 square units and whose height is 3 units

A



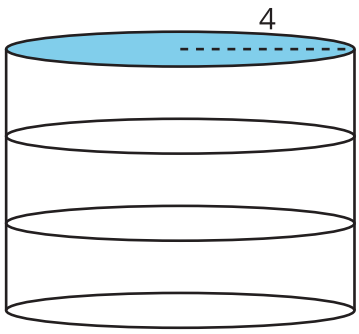
2. Figure B: a cylinder whose base has an area of 16π square units and whose height is 1 unit

B



3. Figure C: a cylinder whose base has an area of 16π square units and whose height is 3 units

C

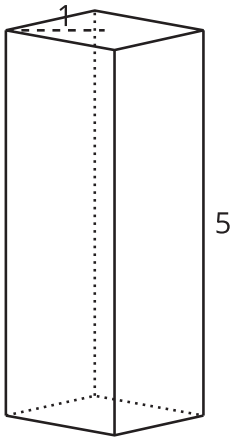


Are you ready for more?

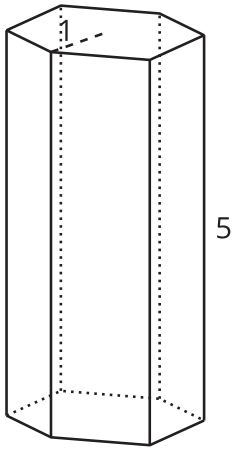
Here are solids that are related by a common measurement. In each of these solids, the distance from the center of the base to the furthest edge of the base is 1 unit, and the height of the solid is 5 units. Use 3.14 as an approximation for π to solve these problems.

prism	prism	prism	cylinder
base: square	base: hexagon	base: octagon	base: circle

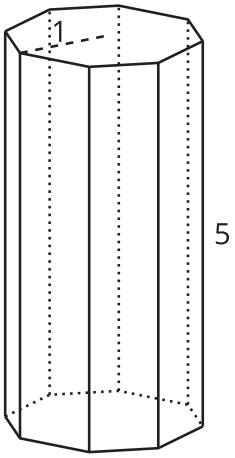
A



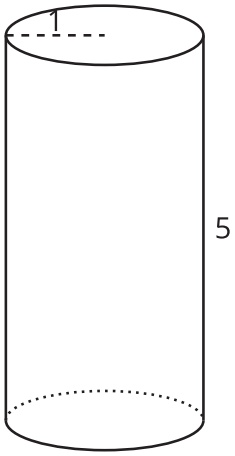
B



C



D



1. The area of the square base is 2 square units. Find the area of the circular base.

2. Use these areas to compute the volumes of the rectangular prism and the cylinder. How do they compare?

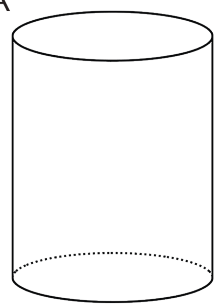
3. Without doing any calculations, list the figures from smallest to largest by volume. Use the images and your knowledge of polygons to explain your reasoning.

4. The area of the hexagon is approximately 2.6 square units, and the area of the octagon is approximately 2.83 square units. Use these areas to compute the volumes of the prisms with the hexagon and octagon bases. How does this match your explanation to the previous question?

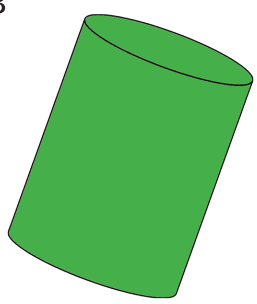
11.3 A Cylinder's Dimensions

1. For cylinders A–D, sketch a radius and the height. Label the radius with an r and the height with an h.

A



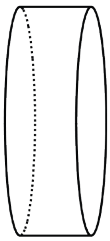
B



C



D



E



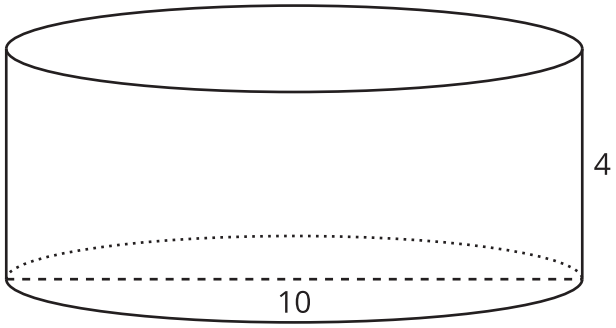
F



2. Earlier you learned how to sketch a cylinder. Sketch cylinders for E and F, and label each one's radius and height.

11.4 A Cylinder's Volume

1. Here is a cylinder with height 4 units and diameter 10 units.



   a. Shade the cylinder's base.

   b. What is the area of the cylinder's base? Express your answer in terms of π.

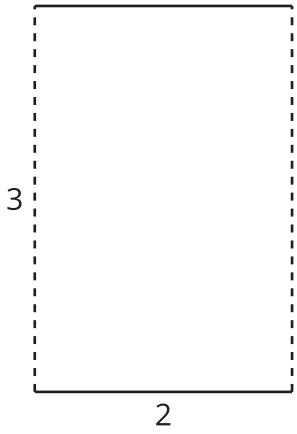
   c. What is the volume of this cylinder? Express your answer in terms of π.

2. A silo is a cylindrical container that is used on farms to hold large amounts of goods, such as grain. On a particular farm, a silo has a height of 30 feet and diameter of 12 feet. Make a sketch of this silo, and label its height and radius. How much volume, in cubic feet, does this silo hold? Use 3.14 as an approximation for π.

Are you ready for more?

One way to construct a cylinder is to take a rectangle (for example, a piece of paper), curl two opposite edges together, and glue them in place.

Which would give the cylinder with the greater volume: gluing the two dashed edges together, or gluing the two solid edges together?



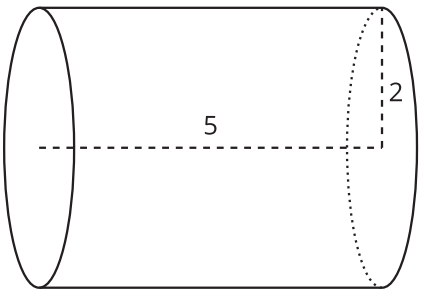
Lesson 11 Summary

We can find the volume of a cylinder with radius r and height h using two ideas we've seen before:

- The volume of a rectangular prism is the result of multiplying the area of its base by its height.
- The base of the cylinder is a circle with radius r, so the base area is πr^2.

Remember that π is the number we get when we divide the circumference of any circle by its diameter. The value of π is approximately 3.14.

Just like a rectangular prism, the volume of a cylinder is the area of the base times the height. For example, consider a cylinder whose radius is 2 cm and whose height is 5 cm.



The base has an area of 4π cm^2 (since $\pi \cdot 2^2 = 4\pi$), so the volume is 20π cm^3 (since $4\pi \cdot 5 = 20\pi$). Using 3.14 as an approximation for π, we can say that the volume of the cylinder is approximately 62.8 cm^3.

In general, the base of a cylinder with radius r units has area πr^2 square units. If the height is h units, then the volume V in cubic units is

$$V = \pi r^2 h.$$